

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 MOSCOW 05009 171752Z  
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SOE-02 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00  
COME-00 DODE-00 EB-08 DOE-11 H-01 INR-10 INT-05  
L-03 NSAE-00 OMB-01 PM-05 OES-07 SP-02 SS-15  
STR-07 TRSE-00 ACDA-12 IO-13 NRC-05 CEQ-01 DOEE-00  
SSO-00 INRE-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 /127 W  
-----030737 171758Z /72

O 171746Z MAR 7  
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9215

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 05009

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PARM, UR, US  
SUBJECT: TASS ON SCIENTISTS LETTER TO PRESIDENT

REF: MOSCOW 04851

1. UNDER HEADING "MISUNDERSTANDING OR EXCUSE?" PRAVDA OF MARCH 17 CARRIES A TASS ITEM ON WHITE HOUSE TREATMENT OF LETTER OF SOVIET SCIENTISTS TO PRESIDENT CARTER ON NEUTRON WEAPON. AFTER EXPLAINING IN SEVERAL PARAGRAPHS THE SUBSTANCE AND IMPORTANCE OF THIS LETTER, TASS STATES THAT THE WHITE HOUSE RESPONSE HAS EVOKED SURPRISE AND CLAIMS THAT SPOKESMAN POWELL "EVADED ANSWERING THE SUBSTANCE OF THE QUESTION." TASS CONCLUDES BY STATING THAT "ONE CANNOT ANSWER SUCH QUESTIONS IN PASSING, IN AN OFFHAND WAY."

2. COMMENT: THIS TASS ARTICLE SUGGESTS THAT MOSCOW HOPES TO SQUEEZE ALL THE PROPAGANDA VALUE IT CAN OUT OF THE LETTER OF THE SOVIET SCIENTISTS. THIS ARTICLE REINFORCES OUR CONVICTION (REFTEL) THAT AMBASSADOR SHOULD ADDRESS THE SUBSTANCE OF THE ISSUE IN MANNER SUGGESTED REFTEL AND THAT WE SHOULD THEREBY CONVEY OUR POSITION TO THE SOVIET PUBLIC VIA VOA. TOON  
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NNN

\*\*\* Current Handling Restrictions \*\*\* n/a

\*\*\* Current Classification \*\*\* CONFIDENTIAL

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** NUCLEAR WEAPONS, PRESIDENT, PUBLIC CORRESPONDENCE, SCIENTISTS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 17 mar 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1978MOSCOW05009  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** n/a  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D780119-0729  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
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**Reference:** 78 MOSCOW 4851  
**Retention:** 0  
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**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 15 jun 2005  
**Review Event:**  
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**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
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**Subject:** TASS ON SCIENTISTS LETTER TO PRESIDENT  
**TAGS:** PARM, PGOV, UR, US, (CARTER, JIMMY)  
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**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
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EO Systematic Review  
20 Mar 2014  
**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014